

**Amended claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for automated generation of installation instructions for an executable software application, comprising:
  - a. retrieving template installation instruction information from a persistent data store;
  - b. deriving installation related information supporting data exchange between different systems from configuration data associated with the application;
  - c. incorporating the derived installation related information into the template installation information to form installation instruction data; and
  - d. storing the derived installation instruction data.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) further comprises extracting installation data supporting data exchange between different systems from the configuration data, the installation data comprising at least two of:
  - i. an identity of a directory to contain the application;
  - ii. an identity of data files comprising the application;
  - iii. an identity of a communication protocol to be used by the application;
  - iv. communication settings for the application;
  - v. suggested performance enhancement settings for the application; and
  - vi. prompting questions to be answered by a user upon installation of the application.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~further comprising processing the derived installation instruction data for output~~ said executable software application is an interface application enabling communication between said different systems and said different systems comprise executable applications.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 1, wherein including the step of ~~the step of processing the derived installation instruction data for output~~ comprises formatting the derived installation instruction data as installation documentation for reproduction on an output device, the output device comprising a printer and a video display.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the derived installation instruction data comprises installation instruction text data for output as installation documentation.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising selecting an output format for the installation documentation, the output format comprising Rich Text Format, Microsoft® Word compatible format, HTML document format, and Extensible Mark-up Language (XML) compatible format.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) further comprises selecting a file containing the template installation instruction information from a plurality of files containing a corresponding plurality of installation instruction documentation templates for interface applications supporting data exchange between different systems.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising creating a prompt question generating routine for inclusion in the installation instruction data by incorporating prompt questions into a predetermined question prompting executable procedure, the prompt questions being for answer by a user upon installation of the application.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the prompt questions to be answered by a user upon installation of the application are derived from the configuration data.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising creating prompt question documentation for inclusion in the installation instruction data, the prompt question being for answer by a user upon installation of ~~the~~ an interface application supporting data exchange between different systems.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a map for associating items of the derived installation related information and corresponding locations in the template installation information for use in incorporating the derived installation related information into the template installation information and supporting data exchange between different systems.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein  
said executable software application is an interface application—~~for~~  
~~applications to be~~ used in exchanging data between different systems  
~~comprising a ~~source~~ first executable application and a different ~~destination~~~~  
~~second executable~~ application; and further comprising prompting a user to  
select at least one of the ~~source~~ first executable application and the  
~~destination~~ second executable application.
13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:
- the system for automated generation of installation instruction documentation for an executable software application is located on a storage medium together with the application; and
  - ~~the system is performed in response to at least one of initial access to the application and insertion of the storage medium in a processing system.~~
14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~13~~ wherein ~~the storage medium is a portable medium comprising removable magnetic media, removable optical media, and removable solid state media~~  
said executable software application is an interface application enabling communication and data exchange between said different systems and  
said different systems comprise executable applications to be enabled to communicate using installation data extracted from the configuration data, including at least one of, (a) a communication protocol identifier and (b) communication settings for at least one of said different systems.
15. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the template installation instruction information comprises predetermined text installation instructions and an executable procedure for generating installation instructions upon procedure execution.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for automated generation of installation instructions for an executable software application, comprising:

- a. retrieving template installation instruction information from a data store, the installation instruction information including prompt questions for answer by a user upon installation of the application;
- b. deriving installation related information supporting data exchange between different systems from configuration data associated with the application;
- c. incorporating the derived installation related information into the template installation information to form installation instruction data; and
- d. presenting the installation instruction data to a user during an installation of the application.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein ~~step (c) further comprises processing the installation instruction data for output~~

said executable software application is an interface application enabling communication and data exchange between said different systems and

said different systems comprise executable applications to be enabled to communicate using installation data extracted from the configuration data, including at least one of, (a) a communication protocol identifier and (b) communication settings for at least one of said different systems.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising creating a prompt question generating procedure for generating the prompt questions for answer by the user.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising selecting the prompt questions from a larger set of prompt questions.

20. (Currently Amended) A user interface method supporting installation of an executable software application, comprising:

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- a. initiating display of application installation instructions including prompt questions for answer by a user upon installation of the application, the application installation instructions being formed by:
    - i. retrieving template installation instruction information from storage,
    - ii. deriving installation related information supporting data exchange between different systems from configuration data associated with the application, and
    - iii. incorporating the derived installation related information into the template installation information to form the application installation instructions; and
  - b. installing the executable software application in response to user command received via the displayed prompt questions.

21. (Currently Amended) A user interface method supporting automated generation of installation instruction documentation for an executable software application, comprising:

- a. initiating display of application installation instructions formed by:
  - i. retrieving template installation instruction information from storage, the installation instruction information including prompt questions for answer by a user upon installation of the application,
  - ii. deriving installation related information supporting data exchange between different systems from configuration data associated with the application, and
  - iii. incorporating the derived installation related information into the template installation information to form the application installation instructions; and
- b. initiating display of the prompt questions for answer by a user upon installation of the application.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein
- a. ~~the application is used in exchanging data between different source and destination applications,~~ said executable software application is an interface application used in exchanging data between different systems comprising a first executable application and a different second executable application and
  - b. the prompt questions prompt a user to select at least one of the ~~source~~ first executable application and the ~~destination~~ second executable application.
23. (Currently Amended) A system for automated generation of installation instructions for an executable software application, comprising:
- a. configuration data for a software interface;
  - b. a template, comprising documentation and ~~variables insertable into the documentation, the variables to be satisfied with~~ data fields to receive one or more configuration data elements;
  - c. a computer system comprising a memory and a processor; and
  - d. software executable in the computer system for creating a data file containing installation data supporting data exchange between different systems derived from configuration data and incorporated into the template, the installation data comprising documentation of an installation process for the software interface.
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